

Re: MORRIS MELTDOWN/MYSTERY FAX #3

DeesWatch Update 9/10/95:

MYSTERY DEEPENS (DID DANNY SPLIT TOWN BECAUSE OF DEESWATCH FAX?)
or MORRIS

PUTS ON A HAPPY FACE. ** Those gentle readers familiar with The Mystery of the Mysterious Fax will have to bring up to speed those that aren't.

This article appeared on page B1 of The Montgomery Advertiser, 9/7/95:
KLANWATCH DIRECTOR RESIGNS TO WRITE BOOK. (By Malcomb Daniels) ^

The director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Klanwatch program has resigned to write a book about his experiences and work with a federal law enforcement program in Georgia, the center's co-founder said. Danny Welch, a former Montgomery police officer, left his position as Klanwatch director Aug. 21 after considering the move for a year, said Morris Dees.

Klanwatch is a nationally known watchdog group that tracks the activities of Ku Klux Klan members, white supremacists and militia members. Mr. Welch was program director from 1989 until this August, Mr. Dees said Wednesday. "THIS HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR A LONG TIME," Mr. Dees said.

Mr. Welch could not be reached for comment Wednesday afternoon. Joe Roy, assistant Klanwatch director and chief investigator, is serving as acting Klanwatch director on an interim basis, Mr. Dees said. Mr. Welch is

still on the Southern Poverty Law Center's payroll as a "free-lancer" and consultant, with a "\$55,000 to \$60,000" yearly salary, Mr. Dees said. Mr. Dees said Mr. Welch was "following a dream" by writing a book about his Klanwatch experiences. He said Mr. Welch "flew out of town yesterday afternoon" and will be on vacation for two weeks. Bill Stanton, another former Klanwatch director, also resigned to write a book, he said. "We encourage our people to write about what they do here," Mr. Dees said.

At a law enforcement academy in Georgia, Mr. Welch will be writing a training manual to help law enforcement agencies recognize hate crimes, Mr. Dees said. "The biggest problems is educating law enforcement on bias crimes," he said. "That has been his major contribution to our Klanwatch." Mr. Welch's resignation is not expected to affect the Law Center's Klanwatch program, which has been expanded with the recent addition of the center's Militia Task Force, Mr. Dees said.

He credited Mr. Welch with putting together the Law Center's first militia task force training seminar this March, a month before the April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. "Danny's a great guy," Mr. Dees said. "He's done a lot of good work." Mr. Welch also worked on lawsuits the Law Center brought against the Klan, including the \$7 million verdict against the United Klans of America after

the death of a Mobile teenager and a successful lawsuit in Portland, Ore., following the racially motivated death of a student.

"I think probably the most successful thing he did was to develop a close relationship between Klanwatch and law enforcement agencies across the nation," Mr. Dees said. Carmen Adams, supervisor of the Montgomery FBI office, said Wednesday that she didn't know that Mr. Welch had resigned. "I'm familiar with him," she said. "I can't say we've worked together on a joint matter. We've discussed information about threats they might have had against the Southern Poverty Law Center. . . Otherwise, I can't say we're actually involved in their program."

Mr. Dees said Mr. Welch, as Klanwatch director, was in charge of KLANWATCH INTELLIGENCE REPORT, "the most highly regarded publication by law enforcement agencies," which is sent to 6,000 law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. Ms. Adams said her office receives the publication. She said the FBI is "prohibited from collecting information about people exercising their constitutional rights, nor would we be interested in doing so." Ms. Adams said she is interested in any information Klanwatch provides on terrorist groups, but her office does not use any of the material to start an investigation.

The Law Center is looking to fill the Klanwatch director's position on a permanent basis, Mr. Dees said. The applicant must have writing, publishing and law enforcement experience and a knowledge of how neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups operate, he said. "It's kind of a hard slot to fill," Mr. Dees said.

*****END MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER STORY*****

DeesWatch Commentary:

Now let's see, Morris, "writing, publishing and law enforcement experience", hmmm. And "knowledge of neo-Nazi and supremacist groups". Well, of course!!! Why didn't you think of a natural for Welch's replacement right away, Morris? GENE RIGHTMYER!! What a great idea! You guys will get along famously--- oops, sorry, I forgot, you already do. Well, maybe Gene's publishing experience is a little skimpy but he sure can turn out Good O' Boy Roundup invitations on his home computer! Give it a shot. You're already in bed with him. (I meant that figuratively, Morris, not literally.)

Pretty funny, really: you, Gene Rightmyer and the pathetic neo-Nazi pukes of the EuroAmerican Alliance, all on the same side-- defending your gravy train, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. I mean, what's wrong with this picture? Is it just Klinton's Klan you refuse to condemn?

And, say, Montgomery Advertiser, great quote from the FBI lady: "I can't say we've worked together on a joint matter."--- Just what does that mean? "We haven't worked together" or "I couldn't tell you if I did"? Did you ask her? Or have you guys gotten toothless since Dan Morse went

to Baltimore? And what about: "She said the FBI is 'prohibited from collecting information about people exercising their constitutional rights....'" But she didn't say, and you didn't point out, that it is precisely that missing link in the "intelligence gathering" food chain that bottom dwellers like Morris are uniquely positioned to fill, and the FBI not only is in no position to question the truthfulness of the "intelligence" provided, but must deny that it even uses it at all. Oh well, someone will win a Pulitzer out of THAT future story.

But now, to the subject at hand (creepy organ music, please): The Mystery Fax that first broke the story of the Welch resignation. Let's examine a little chronology here: According to the above story, Danny Welch resigned from Klanwatch August 21. Please note that SPLC/Klanwatch made no press release of Mr. Welch's departure at the time. Now, previous mystery readers will recall that the Mystery Fax, announcing the Welch resignation and assigning (what I believe to be) a false reason for it (the alleged impropriety of Mr. Allen and the supposed SPLC failed investigation of same<BOGUS!>).

This fax circulated Labor Day weekend in an anonymous, over-the-transom way, to several folks, including Jeff Randal, Gadsden Minutemen and (I am told) a copy with an SPLC letterhead on it to the AGs office. (See Morris Meltdown/Mystery Fax #4 following for more details).

I confirmed the Welch resignation by phone on the afternoon of the 5th. In the early morning of Wednesday, 9/6, I faxed a copy of my Morris Meltdown #1 (which included a transcript of the mystery fax) to Michael Reynolds at SPLC, asking for his comment. I also faxed the news media at the same time and without exception, not one of them had heard of the Welch resignation until they received my call or fax. Now we learn from Morris (see above story) that Mr. Welch, who had been hanging around Montgomery since his unannounced resignation from his long-time job, just happened to get the travel itch and hopped a plane the same afternoon!!

Hmmmm. "and will be on vacation for two weeks." Hmmmm. How's the song go?: " Just hop on a bus, Gus, You don't need to discuss much...." With a little pay-off all arranged. Mighty damn convenient to my mind, but then I've been studying these liars-for-money for a while and I've developed a suspicious mind. Well, we'll find out how much daylight there is between Mr. Welch and Mr. Dees when Mr. Welch once again becomes available to the press. Until then, Danny, "Keep safe."

--Mike Vanderboegh, DeesWatch Project, P.O. Box 926, Pinson, AL 35126.